



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
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**DUE TO DEMAND, D.A. BLODGETT, SHERIFF COUSINS, ANTI-CRIME COUNCIL
HOST SECOND GANG CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS AND YOUTH WORKERS**

Because the demand was so extraordinary, Essex District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett, Sheriff Frank G. Cousins Jr., and the Essex County Anti-Crime Council will once again host "Gangs in Essex County and Beyond," an overview of gangs in Essex County for educators and youth agency staff. The conference, like the first one held in October, is filled to capacity.

The conference will take place on Friday, December 1, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Allied Health and Professions Building at North Shore Community College, 1 Ferncroft Road, Danvers.

Topics will include "Recognizing Gang Activity and Gang Members in Your Community," "Emerging Gangs in Suburban Communities," and "Prevention and Intervention." The conference represents another collaboration between law enforcement, educators, and community leaders to stop gang activity in our cities and towns.

In addition to the District Attorney and Sheriff, other speakers will include Lynn Police Chief John Suslak, John Bynoe from the Massachusetts Department of Education, Detective Bob Hogan from the Lynn Police Gang Unit, and other law enforcement and probation officers from Essex County.

"It's a myth that gang activity is confined to urban areas," said District Attorney Blodgett. "Smaller towns are now subject to the impact of gang activity, and we must be aggressive in order to stop it. We have to work together to remind youth that the road to gang life is a road to nowhere. Education and intervention are extremely important in this effort."

Sheriff Cousins added, "Gang activity, more often than not, begins in our schools. As members of law enforcement, we have a responsibility to share any information we can with public school educators that can be used to teach young people there is nothing alluring about gang life."

The media are cordially invited to attend.